



CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
Fire Prevention Bureau

Code/Procedural Interpretation

CFD Interpretation: “Escape Rooms” Requirements

Date: March 14, 2016

Code Reference: NCDOT/State Fire Marshal's Office Interpretation

Subject:

Are there any provisions or regulations that govern the locking of exit doors from “escape rooms” that have become popular in team-building exercises and other social gatherings such as birthday parties, etc.?

Interpretation:

Yes.

After consulting with the Chief Fire Code Consultant of the North Carolina State Fire Marshal's Office, the exit door of an “escape room” may be locked provided that there is a secondary exit clearly labeled as “Emergency Exit”. This exit shall be fitted with approved panic hardware or other locking/latching devices that comply with Chapter 10 of the NC Fire Code.